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Report from San Juan—Death from suspicious illness on Spanish steamship Buenos Aires.

SAN JUAN, P. R., September 22, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Spanish steamship *Buenos Aires* arrived at this port at midday on the 18th instant, from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, and Ponce.

All persons on board were well, with the exception of one steerage passenger, who was comatose upon arrival here and who died at 9.30 p. m. on the evening of arrival.

The patient, a Syrian of 18 years of age, was in transit from Lima, Peru, to Europe. He was in Colon two days waiting for this steamship, and he went on board her upon the 10th instant apparently in good health, except that he appeared anæmic.

He suffered much from seasickness during the early part of the voyage, but was up and about until the 17th, when he was found comatose upon the deck.

Upon arrival here the case presented certain difficulties as to diagnosis, but the vessel was quarantined and treated as though the case was one of undoubted yellow fever.

The dead body was removed to the quarantine station, a post-mortem examination made, and the body buried in a remote part of the reservation, the coffin and grave being filled with quicklime.

Without going into details as to the history of the case, its symptoms and post-mortem findings, it appears that the diagnosis does not determine whether the case was one of pernicious malarial fever, yellow fever, or acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Pathological specimens are in process of preparation and will be forwarded to the hygienic laboratory for examination. Accompanying these will be forwarded in detail the gross post-mortem findings in the case.

The *Buenos Aires* sailed from this port for Spain on the 18th instant, having declined disinfection here.

Respectfully,

H. S. MATHEWSON,
*Passed Assistant Surgeon,
Chief Quarantine Officer for Porto Rico.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

Report of inspection of immigrants at Ponce, P. R., during the week ended September 20, 1902.

PONCE, P. R., September 22, 1902.

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I submit herewith report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended September 20, 1902. September 17, French steamship *Salvador*, from Port au Prince and Santo Domingo, with 11 immigrants. September 18, Cuban steamship *Julia*, from Havana and Santo Domingo, with 5 immigrants. Total, 16.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.